

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida. Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website - [www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2014](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2014).

### **EDC Members Present**

Peter Robinson, Local Developer  
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large  
Shawn Frost, School Board  
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry  
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large  
Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)  
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large  
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid  
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores  
William Penney, Banking Appointee  
Joe Idlette III, Gifford Community  
Tracey McMorris (representing Richard Stetson), Career Source  
Katie Nall (representing Casey Lunceford), IRSC  
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere  
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)

### **EDC Members Absent**

Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee  
Mike Lafferty, Real Estate Appointee  
Jim Funk, Manufacturing Appointee  
Jim Hill, City of Sebastian  
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry

### **Others Present**

Dick Cantner, IRSC  
Helene Caseltine, IRCOC  
Eric Menger, COVB – Airport

### **IRC Staff**

Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4, Non-Voting Commission Liaison  
Sasan Rohani, Chief, Long-Range Planning  
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner  
Amy Sheridan, Commissioner Assistant  
Ruth Brogdon, Commissioner Assistant, Transcribing Secretary, (Not present)

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Zimmermann called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

## **Approval of the EDC Minutes of October 21, 2014**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Mr. Weick, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the minutes of October 21, 2014 as presented.**

## **Economic Development Annual Report – Helen Caseltine, IRCOC**

Ms. Caseltine presented the Economic Development Annual report to the Council. A copy of the full report is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Robinson noticed in the ACCRA report that the City of Miami had a much lower average doctor visit cost compared to other cities, and inquired as to how they calculated these averages. Ms. Caseltine stated she would try and find an answer for the Council.

Mr. Cantner inquired as to how the financial impact from the gun show was measured. Ms. Caseltine answered that it was based on hotel room stays.

Mr. Weich asked how many jobs were created in 2014 as a result of the local jobs grant program. Ms. Caseltine believed that information could be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Schutt informed the group that the report is published as part of the County's Community Development report. Mr. Schutt hoped to have that data for the next EDC Committee meeting in January, 2015.

Mr. Robinson inquired, that in addition to the data we have from the local jobs program, he was interested in knowing what the state of Florida has on record for job creation in Indian River County.

Ms. McMorris was asked, and she agreed, to provide that data for the next EDC meeting in January, 2015.

Chairman Zimmermann remarked that it was a good idea to come up with ways to promote all this positive data.

Chairman Zimmerman also reminded the Committee that one of its main goals is to assist those in the food processing workforce. They needed to come up with new sources of summer employment for the food processors who would normally be forced into unemployment during the summer months.

**Status Report on the Strategic Positioning Target Industry Assessment and Action Plan – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC and Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner.**

Ms. Caseltine and Mr. Schutt reported to the Committee the status of Section 5 and 6 of the Strategic Positioning Target Industry Assessment and Action Plan. A copy of their presentation is in the Commission file.

Chairman Zimmerman asserted that there has been commentary from the County Attorney's office regarding the open meeting being held on January 8, 2015, and reminded Committee members they must follow the Florida Sunshine Laws as they relate to public meetings.

Ms. Gonzalez detailed an error in the report on page 75 which stated that Orlando Airport was only one hour from Vero Beach.

Chairman Zimmerman reiterated to the Committee the importance of following the consultant's suggestions in the report, which was to narrow down the targeted industry list.

**Other Matters**

Mr. Rohani briefed the Committee about a request from Staff at the City of Vero Beach to change the monthly schedule of meetings in 2015. Staff will reach out to the Committee for alternative meeting dates if possible.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.